

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03968 291728Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

----- 109492

R 291645Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8923

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3968

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, RO, BU, YO

SUBJECT: "BALKAN AXIS" OFFICIALLY DENIED

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' MAY 26-27 OFFICIAL VISIT TO BUCHAREST RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE HERE. VISIT GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED AS ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR PM. THE VISIT ITSELF, TOGETHER WITH CARAMANLIS' UPCOMING TRIPS TO BELGRADE (JUNE 4-5) AND LATER TO SOFIA, AND SEVERAL EARLIER HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO GREECE BY OFFICIALS OF ITS THREE NORTHERN NEIGHBORS, HAS LED TO STORIES IN THE PRESS ABOUT A GREEK "OPENING" TO THE NORTH OR "BALKAN AXIS".

2. THIS PRESS SPECULATION SUGGESTED THAT GREEK INTENTION IS TO BOLSTER GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE BALKAN COUNTRIES AND THUS, WITH THE BENEFIT OF IMPROVED SECURITY CONDITIONS ON ITS NORTHERN FRONTIER, GREECE WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEAL WITH ITS MOST PRESSING FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM, I.E. TURKEY. ONE NEWSPAPER FURTHER CONJECTURED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A BALKAN CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS BASING ITS STORY ON ALLEGED SUPPORT BY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 03968 291728Z

BALKAN COUNTRIES FOR THE GREEK POSITION ON CYPRUS AND A

SIMILAR PROPOSAL MADE EARLIER BY ROMANIAN FONMIN MACOVESCU DURING HIS VISITS TO ATHENS AND ANKARA.

3. GOG SPOKESMAN, ON BACKGROUND, DESCRIBED PRESS REPORTS ON CREATION OF A "BALKAN AXIS" AS INACCURATE. SPOKESMAN, CONTINUING ON BACKGROUND, SAID STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL CONTACTS NATURALLY COULD LEAD TO BETTER MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT IT FOLLOWED THAT REGIONAL NORMALIZATION SHOULD BE A COMMON OBJECTIVE. GOG SOURCE DENIED REPORTS THAT GREECE IS SHOWING A TENDENCY TO FOLLOW A NEUTRALIST POLICY. HE ADDED THAT GREECE'S POSITION IS TO ESTABLISH THAT THE SO-CALLED SLAV-COMMUNIST DANGER TODAY NO LONGER EXISTS FOR GREECE, BUT INSTEAD, GREECE IS FACED WITH TURKISH EXPANSIONISM. THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS REASONABLE THEREFORE FOR GREECE TO TURN TO THE BALKAN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THEM.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A DEFINITE INCREASE IN OFFICIAL HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL VISITS BETWEEN GREECE AND ITS BALKAN NEIGHBORS SINCE THE RESTORATION OF POLITICAL GOVERNMENT (CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO BUCHAREST REPRESENTS THE FIRST VISIT BY A GREEK PREMIER TO A WARSAW PACT COUNTRY), THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS PREVAILING IN BOTH GREECE AND IN ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS ARE NO LESS REAL. THE BACKGROUND STATEMENT BY THE FOF SPOKESMAN SHOULD BE READ, WE BELIEVE, AT FACE VALUE. AS A RESULT OF EVENTS IN CYPRUS AND DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE AEGEAN, GREEK APPREHENSIONS ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH TURKEY HAVE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ECLIPSED TRADITIONAL FEARS OF SLAV EXPANSIONISM.
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS03968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0725
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975057/aaaaafsf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "BALKAN AXIS" OFFICIALLY DENIED
TAGS: PFOR, GR, RO, BU, YO, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANINOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006